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PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Letter dated 19 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for the month of April and, at the request of its member States, to express our strong protest at the non-granting of translation services by the Secretariat for the meeting of the Group held on 18 April 1996 at 3 p.m. at the United Nations.

The United Nations is an organization with a diversity of cultures, religions and languages. And in this diversity lies its universality. For this reason it is incomprehensible that each day we face a growing trend towards monolingualism, which undoubtedly has a negative impact on the work of the Organization.

Situations like the one that occurred last 18 April are contradictory to the spirit of resolution 50/11 on multilingualism adopted by the General Assembly on 2 November 1995 and are also contradictory to resolution 50/206 A, adopted on 23 December 1995 under the item entitled "Pattern of conferences", by which the Secretary-General is requested to "provide, within the resources approved for conference services in the biennium 1996-1997, interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States upon request by those groupings, taking into account the priority due to meetings included in the calendar of conferences and meetings".

The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States expresses its confidence that this unfortunate situation will not be repeated in the future, and calls on you to renew your efforts to ensure that all our countries can hold their exchanges on important issues for the Organization's work in an adequate manner.

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* A/51/50.

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I kindly request you to distribute the present note as a document of the General Assembly under item 121 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Bruno RODRIGUEZ PARRILLA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative